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"bioactive" with regard CRT indicates that the fragment or mutant form of CRT retains substantially normal or biological CRT activity.

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In the paragraph bridging page 16, line 28 to page 17, line26, please insert the following paragraph:

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SMCRT transgenic mice- A truncated SM22α promoter (~~445~~ 1343 base pairs of the 5' flanking region) which has been shown to target the Lac Z reporter gene expression in the vascular smooth muscle cells (specifically in the arterial side) but not other smooth muscle cells in the mouse embryo (Li et al., 1996) was used. We obtained this promoter from Dr. E. Olson (Southwestern Medical Centre, University of Texas, Dallas, USA) and cloned it upstream of mouse CRT cDNA tagged with HA epitope (HA-CRT). The epitope tag was used to differentiate between the expression of the transgene and the endogenous CRT. However, as will be appreciated by one of skill in the art, any suitable tag known in the art may be used if so desired. This plasmid was then used to generate a transgenic mouse overexpressing HA-CRT (SMCRT) in the vascular smooth muscle cells. The genotype of these mice was confirmed by PCR of the genomic DNA with primers specific to the sequence of SM22α (5' primer) and CRT (3' primer). The expression of the HA-CRT in these mice was detected using western blot with a polyclonal antibody to HA (Fig. 2). The heterozygous SMCRT mice develop abnormalities at an adult stage (about 4-10 months old). The older mice become lethargic and inactive. Most of the male heterozygous animals develop skin lesions (Fig. 3) and hemangioma which can be detected on the skin. These mice suffer from lung congestion (Fig. 4) and kidney thrombosis (Fig. 5), symptoms resembling congestive heart failure. The evidence of heart failure is also observed in older (10-12 months) female heterozygous mice. Analysis of the kidney of the SMCRT mice showed hemorrhage from renal vessels in the renal adipose tissue and the presence of thrombus inside the kidney capsules (Fig. 5A, C). Histological analysis of the kidneys from the mice at end stage disease showed necrosis in